Airport Tax

477. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to increase the Airport Tax considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons for planning such a hike;

(c) what will be the quantum of such increase; and

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Insecurity and Unhygienic conditions at Airports

478. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insecurity and unhygienic conditions have been prevalent at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the steps recently taken to curb these problems; and

(c) to what extent these have been effective?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of operations in India by International Airlines

479. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the International Airlines who have withdrawn or reduced their operations in India;

(b) to what extent air traffic in India has suffered; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) United Airlines, Sabena, Canada 3000, Scandinavian Airlines System, All Nippon Airways, Swiss Air, Royal Nepal Airlines, North-West Airlines, Air France and Pakistan International Airlines have withdrawn or reduced their operations to India recently or plan to do so in near future.

(b) Total passenger traffic to and from India during September to December 2001 was 36.82 lakhs against 40.62 lakhs during the same period of 2000 implying a drop by 9.4%.

(c) All airlines plan their operations keeping in view the commercial viability and comparative yields of different routes. However, the Government of India has given a special dispensation by permitting operations of extra section flights by foreign airlines during IATA winter season. Moreover Indian Airlines and Air India have deployed additional capacity on some sectors.

Sharing of information by Nepal on IC-814 Hijacking

480. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has not parted with their investigation details of the December, 1999 hijacking of Indian Airlines IC-814 at the Tribhuvan Airport in Kathmandu so far;

(b) if so, whether it has also not shared sensitive information on the five Pakistani hijackers;

(c) if so, what are main reasons; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) The Government of Nepal has shared with the Indian authorities all information required by the Indian side relating to investigation carried out by them in the hijacking of IC-814.

Strengthening of Pawan Hans

481. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering investment to strengthen operations of Pawan Hans Helicopters;